

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Application as examined included claims 1-40. Claims 1, 17, 19-20, 31 and 37 are amended. Claims 18, 33 and 39 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2-16, 21-30, 32, 34-36, 38 and 40 are unchanged.

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 19 fails to interrelate essential elements of the invention as defined by the Applicant in the specification, amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to overcome these rejections.

Claims 1-5, 17, 31 and 37 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-4, 6 and 18 of U.S. 6,185,596.

The allowability of claims 6-16, 18, 21-30, 32-36 and 38-40 is noted with appreciation.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of allowable claim 33 and is therefore allowable. Claims 2-16 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable. Claim 17 has been amended to include the recitation of allowable claim 18 and is therefore allowable. Claims 21-22 and 24-30 depend directly or ultimately from claim 17 and are therefore allowable.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the recitation of allowable claim 33 and is therefore allowable. Claims 32 and 34-36 depend from claim 31 and are therefore allowable. Claim 37 has been amended to include the recitation of allowable claim 39 and is therefore allowable. Claims 38 and 40 depend directly or ultimately from claim 37 and are therefore allowable.

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Claims 18, 33 and 39 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable.
Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Peter Ludwig", written over a horizontal line.

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